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❖ **Karimnagar's Silver Filigree Crafts Silver Ashoka Chakra Badges for G20 Summit**

➤ Karimnagar's renowned Silver Filigree, known for its exquisite artistry, has carved itself a niche again as over 200 delegates of the upcoming G20 summit will be presented with silver badges in the shape of the Indian symbol 'Ashoka Chakra'.

➤ The Silver Filigree of Karimnagar Handicrafts Welfare Society secured this manufacturing order through the Telangana State Handicrafts Development Corporation four months ago.

➤ These distinctive badges will adorn the coats of delegates representing 20 countries at the summit.

➤ Silver filigree of Karimnagar earned Geographical Indication (GI) status in 2007.

❖ **Bank of Baroda enables UPI ATM facility at over 6,000 ATMs across country**

➤ Bank of Baroda (BoB) announced that it has enabled the UPI ATM facility at over 6,000 ATMs across the country.

➤ It is the first public sector bank to launch UPI ATMs, in coordination with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and powered by NCR Corporation.

➤ Customers as well as customers of all participating issuer banks using any UPI-enabled Mobile app can withdraw cash from Bank of Baroda UPI ATMs without using their debit card.

➤ Using the Interoperable Cardless Cash Withdrawal (ICCW) technology, which facilitates cardless cash withdrawals through ATMs, the UPI ATM enables seamless QR-based cash withdrawals, doing away with the need to carry a Card to withdraw cash.

➤ One of the major benefits of the UPI ATM facility is that customers can withdraw cash from multiple accounts linked to UPI.

➤ UPI ATM transactions are also quicker, convenient, and secured as they generate a single-use dynamic QR code for every transaction and ensure a safe banking experience.

❖ **India's first underground transformer unveiled in Bangalore**

➤ Bengaluru's first underground electric transformer was inaugurated at Malleshwaram, by the city's civic body and electricity board together.

➤ The idea behind the underground electric transformer is to ensure the safety of people and to maintain the aesthetics of India's garden city.

➤ This will also convert the complete system which includes distribution transformers, ring main units, feeder pillar boxes, etc into an underground system.

➤ This adds to the overall safety of the environment, encouraging the citizens to use footpaths without any hassles since they'd be free from interruption during maintenance works of overhead cables and related equipment.

➤ This would also keep the electrical equipment insulated from drastic climatic changes such as cold, heat and rains.

❖ **Mastercard partners with KredX to Make B2B Payments Rewarding for Vendors**

➤ Mastercard announced its collaboration with KredX, a supply chain finance platform, to make B2B digital payments rewarding for both enterprises and vendors.

➤ As part of the collaboration, Mastercard will integrate its commercial card service with the KredX platform, eliminating the complexities associated with B2B payments, especially those made via cards. B2B payments are ridden with complexities of diverse invoicing, payment terms, currency variations, and reconciliation procedures. This new platform will enable

enterprises and vendors to improve their cash flows with advanced features like dynamic discounting, early payment and price discovery.

➤ Combining KredX's proprietary technology with Mastercard's expertise in commercial payment solutions will create a pioneering B2B payments solution .

Ahmedabad becomes second city in India to implement emission trading scheme

➤ The Gujarat government announced that Ahmedabad has become the second city in the country, after Surat, to implement an emission trading scheme (ETS) for particulate pollution that will help in regulating industrial emissions and reduce the state's pollution levels.

➤ Gujarat's forest and environment minister Mulubhai Bera inaugurated the first uniform auction for the Ahmedabad ETS market, distributing pollution permits online to all participating industries.

➤ The ETS for particulate matter (PM), the first in the world for PM emissions, is an example of the unique initiatives being taken by the government of Gujarat to contain its emissions.

❖ **Jharkhand Cabinet approves pension for transgender community**

➤ The Jharkhand cabinet led by Chief Minister Hemant Soren approved the inclusion of the transgender community in the state's universal pension scheme.

➤ Transgender persons will now be eligible to receive monthly financial assistance of Rs 1000 under the 'Chief Minister's State Social Security Pension Scheme'.

➤ Eligibility for this scheme is determined on the basis of age, persons of 18 years and above who have voter ID cards are eligible.

➤ Apart from the pension scheme, the Jharkhand cabinet also approved the inclusion of transgender persons in the Other Backward Classes (OBC) category.

➤ The objective of this decision is to ensure that transgender persons can avail the benefits of reservation in government job opportunities.

➤ Notably, transgender persons who do not fall under any of the existing caste-based reservation categories will be classified as OBCs at position number 46 in the OBC list.

❖ **Telangana govt partners with Tabreed for cooling infrastructure**

➤ Telangana Government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Tabreed, a cooling service provider from Abu Dhabi, UAE, to develop Asia's largest District Cooling System (DCS) in Hyderabad.

➤ Tabreed will invest US\$200 million to build cooling infrastructure with a capacity of 125,000 refrigeration tons (RT) for Hyderabad Pharma City (HPC).

➤ The project has been undertaken as a Public-Private Partnership (PPP).

➤ DCS is an environment-friendly, energy-efficient, and cost-effective cooling method.

➤ It involves a central chiller plant to cool water, which is then circulated through a closed loop pipe network to cool industrial, commercial and residential buildings.

❖ **SBI Card adds new features to AURUM super premium credit card**

➤ SBI Card, India's largest credit card issuer, launched new features of its super-premium card 'AURUM', which is targeted at the premium section of society, such as high-net-worth individuals.

➤ AURUM cardholders will be able to avail benefits worth up to Rs 2 lakh annually, based on their spending.

➤ The card offers unlimited international lounge access to cardholders, as well as four international lounge visits for accompanying guests.

➤ In addition, the card also offers a one-year Club Marriott membership as a welcome gift.

➤ The joining and annual membership fee for this by card is Rs 9,999, an amount that will be reversed once the cardholder achieves a milestone of Rs 12 lakh spending in the card membership year.

❖ Amazon Signs MoU With 5 Indian States To Empower People With Disabilities

- Amazon India has signed a pact with five state governments to engage with employable Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) and enable their participation in the mainstream workforce.
- These states are Haryana, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.
- The memorandum of understanding which extends until 2026 aims to provide skilling and employment opportunities to PwD candidates in the five states.

❖ NPCI launches slew of new payment options on payment platforms UPI

- The NPCI has launched a slew of new payment options on popular payment platforms UPI, including conversational transactions.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das announced the launch of the products by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) at the ongoing Global Fintech Festival in Mumbai.
- The latest offerings are aimed at creating an inclusive, resilient, and sustainable digital payments ecosystem and will help UPI achieve the target of 100 billion transactions per month.
- NPCI said it has partnered with AI4Bharat at IIT Madras, to co-develop Hindi and English payment language models.

❖ GSV Vadodara and Airbus sign MoU

- Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV) Vadodara and Airbus signed an MoU for aerospace education and research. The aim is to strengthen the Indian aviation sector through this partnership.
- The MoU was signed by Rémi Maillard (President and Managing Director, Airbus India and South Asia) and Professor Manoj Chowdhary (Vice-Chancellor, Gati Shakti University).

- The signing ceremony was attended by Minister of Railways, Communications, Electronics and IT Ashwini Vaishnav, who also serves as the first Chancellor of Gati Shakti University.
- Jaya Verma Sinha, Chairperson and CEO, of the Railway Board and senior officials of the Railway Board, were also present.

❖ Elizabeth II honored with gold coin worth \$23 million

- The first anniversary commemorative coin of Queen Elizabeth has been designed by the East India Company.
- It is made from almost 8 pounds of gold and 6,426 diamonds and is one among the most valuable coins of all time.
- The coin has a diameter of over 9.6 inches, making it wider than an NBA-regulation basketball and its design comprises almost a dozen 24-carat gold coins nestled in beds of diamonds.
- The center coin weighs over 2 pounds, while the smaller ones around it each weigh 1 ounce and feature either portraits of the late monarch or depictions of virtues including truth, justice and courage.
- On one side, thousands of diamonds have been arranged to resemble the UK's flag, while the setting of the reverse was inspired by the late queen's tiaras.
- The multi-million-dollar valuation of the coin was partly due to the quality of the materials and crafting processes, which involved artisans and experts from the UK, India, Singapore, Germany and Sri Lanka.

❖ Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's Wagh Nakhkh

- The United Kingdom authorities have agreed to return the legendary Wagh Nakh, a dagger shaped like tiger claws, which holds profound historical significance in Maharashtra.
- This remarkable weapon was famously used by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj to kill Bijapur Sultanate's general, Afzal Khan, in 1659.
- To formalise the return of this historic artefact, Maharashtra Cultural Affairs Minister Sudhir Mungantiwar will sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the UK authorities, marking a pivotal step towards bringing the Wagh Nakh back to its rightful place.
- The Wagh Nakh is a unique dagger designed to be held with the fingers or hidden in the hand. It has four or five curved blades attached to a crossbar or glove, intended for cutting through skin and muscle.
- This dagger is thought to have been inspired by the weaponry of big cats, and its name, Wagh Nakh, translates to 'tiger's claw' in English.